

Action Plan

The Unit's action plan is identified by three categories. Completed projects are those that have been completed this current year. Ongoing projects are those that currently exist under a Vegetation Management Program (VMP) or funded through a Wildland Urban Interface grant (WUI) and are assumed to be ongoing with a contract renewal over the next 5-year period. Planned projects are those that are either in a VMP contract, WUI grant application stage or in an alternative cooperative fuel reduction effort. Some planned projects are in the concept stage only. It should be noted that the following list of projects are only those being undertaken by the Humboldt - Del Norte Unit and do not reflect the many projects that the Unit's local Fire Safe Councils are involved with on their own.

Completed Projects

- Arcata Community Forest Fuel Reduction 2001 WUI USDA
- Crescent City / Hambro Hwy 101 2003 VMP RX-North-045-HUU
- Del Norte County Chipping Program 2002 WUI BLM
- Humboldt County Chipping Program 2002 WUI BLM
- Shelter Cove Shaded Fuelbreak 2003 WUI USDA
- Arcata Community Forest Fuelbreak 2003 WUI BLM
- CCC Summer Work Program 2004 Humboldt Co. Grant

On Going Projects

- Humboldt Redwoods State Park VMP: Understory Burns & Prairie Burns
- Stewart Ranch VMP: Grazing Land Improvement
- Redwood National Park VMP: Prairie Burns
- Klamath River Drainage VMP: Cultural Burns

Planned Projects

- Johnson Ridge Shaded Fuel Break

This project is a joint venture with the Del Norte County Fire Safe Council, Green Diamond Timber Company, and HUU. The project will construct an 11 mile long shaded fuelbreak along Johnson Ridge, in Humboldt County that will separate Redwood National Park lands from lands owned by Green Diamond Timber Company. Removed vegetation will be either chipped or burned.

- Hobbs-Wall Fuel Reduction Project

This project is a joint venture with the California Department of Fish and Game, the Del Norte County Fire Safe Council, and HUU. The Hobbs-Wall mill site in the community of Crescent City (Del Norte County) is owned and managed by DF&G. The area has been developed for public use (hiking, and wildlife observation). In the past couple of years the area has been allowed to become overgrown, creating a potential problem with fire starts, transient encampment, refuge dumping, and public safety. HUU crews will mitigate the existing problem of the hazardous fuel build-up by cutting and chipping the vegetation on site. The buffer zone will not only help with future fire suppression efforts in the area (yearly average 2 to 3 fires) but will also create a safer environment for the public who wish to use the area.

- Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Assessment: WUI 2006 BLM Proposal

This grant proposal for \$30,763.00 will aid in the collection of data from throughout the Unit comprised of Humboldt, Del Norte, and southwestern Trinity counties. This data will be used to assess areas of need, plan projects to mitigate problem areas, and inform and educate the public at large of the potential fire problems within the Unit that could result in loss of life and property. The data that is gathered will be used by a variety of agencies within the Unit to help form a consolidated effort in the formation of fuel removal projects, fuelbreaks, and greenbelt projects.

- Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Prevention & Defensible Space: WUI 2006 BLM Proposal

This grant proposal for \$146,729.00 will increase community outreach in the wildland intermix areas through public education programs in schools and communities. It will also improve fire prevention awareness through the use of roadside signs, cooperative development and distribution of a “Living with Fire in Northwest California” annual publication. In addition an increased distribution of defensible space information will be made available to the public through home visits by local fire departments.

- Humboldt County Chipper Program/Phase II: WUI 2005 BLM Proposal

This grant proposal in the amount of \$36,225.00 will the continue the Humboldt County chipping program started in 2002. Target areas will be assessed, and prioritized for need. One hundred crew days have been allotted for cutting and chipping vegetation to improve egress and ingress for the public and emergency personnel and vehicles.

- Del Norte County Chipper Program/Phase II: WUI 2005 BLM Proposal

This grant proposal in the amount of \$24,524.00 will continue the Del Norte County chipping program started in 2002. Target areas will be assessed, and prioritized for need. Fifty crew days have been allotted for cutting and chipping of vegetation to improve egress and ingress for the public and emergency personnel and vehicles.

Planned Projects Not Implemented

- Telegraph & Wilder Ridge Shaded Fuel Break: WUI 2004 BLM Proposal

Withdrawn by HUU: unable to carryout contracting with local vendors to do local projects without going through statewide bidding process.

- HUU Assessment and Data Collection: WUI 2004 USDA Proposal

This grant was funded, but due to the “Biscuit Fire” of 2004 monies were redirected to fire suppression efforts. Grant was resubmitted through BLM process in 2005 and had funding declined. Proposal is currently being resubmitted thru 2006 BLM process.

- HUU Prevention and Defensible Space: WUI 2004 USDA

Funding declined, resubmitted thru 2006 BLM process.

Map of the proposed 2004 WUI BLM



WUJ-2004
Wilder Ridge Shaded Fuel Break
 Between the communities of Whitethorn and Honeydew, Humboldt County, California
 15 miles (270 acres) total along the Eitersburg / Wilder Ridge Road

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Grant for the “Telegraph & Wilder Ridge Shaded Fuelbreak” project.

Treatment of Structure Ignitability

The Humboldt-Del Norte Unit contains many communities that are threatened with potential loss of life and property due to wildfires. These and many other communities in California are subject to threats from wildfire, yet thousands of homes continue to be constructed every year that are not safe for fire prone areas.

Due to major wildfires that have occurred in California, various statues and regulations have been enacted to combat the ever-increasing threats to lives and property due to wildfire. Laws have been enacted to govern fire safety in regards to vegetation management, land use and more. However, aside from fire retardant roofing requirements, little had been accomplished at the state in regards to adoption of “Fire Safe” building standards for homes and other structures.

With passing of Assembly Bill 1216 in January 2005, the California State Fire Marshall (SFM) was given statutory authority to expand fire safety building standards in areas with high fire risk to include components such as: roofs, exterior walls, attic eave vents, windows and structure projections including porches, decks, balconies, and eaves.
 (see PRC 4291 & Gov. Code 51189 on page 49 that apply to this law)

This law will reduce the spread of fire to and from structures and will save lives,